

**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

State Capitol, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA

Minutes of Meeting  
April 10, 2008

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Cathie Bennett Warner, Chair  
Michele Burton, M.P.H.  
Wilma Chan  
Vicki Marti  
Nancy McFadden

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Marvin Kropke

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Toby Douglas, Department of Health Care Services  
Cathy Halverson, Department of Health Care Services  
John Fitzpatrick II, Department of Finance

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT****CMAC STAFF PRESENT**

Tacia Carroll  
Paul Cerles  
Denise DeTrano  
Holland Golec  
Katie Knudson  
Jenny Morgan  
Becky Swol  
Mike Tagupa  
Mervin Tamai  
Karen Thalhammer

**I. Call to Order**

The April 10, 2008 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Chair Cathie Bennett Warner. A quorum was present.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The March 27, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

### **III. Executive Director's Report**

Paul Cerles, Deputy Director and Supervising Negotiator, began his report by informing the Commissioners that Keith Berger, Executive Director, was out of the office due to illness, and he would be giving the Executive Director's report on Mr. Berger's behalf. Mr. Cerles said he expects Mr. Berger to return to the office next week on a reduced schedule until he is fully recovered.

Mr. Cerles informed the Commissioners of a couple new changes in CMAC personnel. First he announced the appointment of a new Commissioner, Marvin Kropke effective April 2, 2008. Mr. Cerles explained that Mr. Kropke replaced Commissioner Longville following his resignation. Mr. Cerles expressed his appreciation for all of Commissioner Longville's hard work while with CMAC and noted that he will be missed.

Commissioner Kropke is unable to attend today's meeting, but Mr. Cerles said he is expected to be at the April 24 meeting and that CMAC looks forward to working with him.

Next, Mr. Cerles was pleased to introduce the new staff person CMAC has hired, Jenny Morgan, and stated that she is a great addition to the office, in terms of experience, skills and personality. CMAC feels very fortunate to have been able to find someone of her caliber so quickly. Mr. Cerles wanted Jenny and the Commissioners to have a chance to put faces to the names and voices they will hear on the other end of the phone. Mr. Cerles and the Commissioners formally welcomed Jenny to CMAC.

At the April 24 meeting, Mr. Cerles indicated that John Gillengarten, Deputy Director, Facilities Development Division, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) would be giving CMAC a presentation on the Hospital Seismic Retrofit Program. Mr. Cerles noted that Roger Richter, California Hospital Association (CHA) would also be in attendance to provide his perspective on related issues.

At the previous CMAC meeting, Mr. Cerles noted, the first component of the Distressed Hospital Fund (DHF) process was approved and awards were made to 13 hospitals. CMAC awaits word from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) as to, if then, when additional distressed funding is available for California hospitals.

Mr. Cerles indicated that in today's closed session agenda, there are five contracts and amendments before the Commissioners for review and action as well as a number of updates and discussions regarding current hospital and managed care negotiations.

### **IV. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Report**

Toby Douglas, DHCS, informed CMAC that he would regretfully no longer be attending CMAC meetings as the representative from DHCS, and Cathy Halverson, who was introduced at an earlier meeting, would be taking his place.

Mr. Douglas explained that under the reorganization of the Department of Health Services, the department was divided into the Department of Public Health and DHCS. Under DHCS there are two Deputy Directors (Mr. Douglas and Ms. Halverson); each oversee six of the 12 health care divisions. Ms. Halverson will manage Safety Net Financing, Medical Managed Care, Provider Enrollment, Utilization Management, Long Term Care as well as Primary and Rural Health Programs. Mr. Douglas noted that with Ms. Halverson's tremendous amount of experience, she will be a great help to CMAC on hospital and managed care issues. Mr. Douglas then said Ms. Halverson would give her first DHCS report to CMAC.

Ms. Halverson informed CMAC that at the previous meeting, Mr. Douglas indicated that all ten counties participating in local programs through the 2005 Health Coverage Initiative, have enrolled approximately 31,000 individuals. She noted that to date, the number of enrolled individuals is now up to 35,000, but enrollment is still much lower than expected due to difficulties with citizenship documentation requirements. DHCS is still hopeful that the counties will increase enrollment and maximize the federal funding available under this initiative.

#### **V. Public Comment**

Richard Thomason, Policy Director, Political Department, Service Employees International Union (SEIU)-United Healthcare Workers West (UHW), informed CMAC that his organization represents over 80,000 healthcare workers in the State, including 600 workers at California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC). Mr. Thomason expressed UHW's support of CHMC, who will be presenting in CMAC's closed session.

Mr. Thomason noted that UHW hopes that CMAC will seek middle ground in the negotiation that preserves the ability of CHMC to continue to provide emergency and hospital services to some of the most undeserved communities in Los Angeles.

#### **VI. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment**

There being no further new business and no comments from the public, Chair Bennett Warner recessed the open session. Chair Bennett Warner opened the closed session, and after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair Bennett Warner announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital and managed care contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.